

THE

Rival Dutcheſs :

OR,

Court Incendiary.

IN A

DIALOGUE

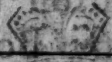
BETWEEN

Madam Maintenon,

AND

Madam M.

BRITISH



MUSEUM

LONDON:

Printed in the Year MDCCVII.

Price One Penny.

The Rival Dutchess, &c.

Mantenon. **M** Adam, I rejoyce to see you.

Mad. M. You do me a great deal of Honour indeed, to be saluted by a Woman, Madam, of your Eminence, who has out-done the Brightest of your Sex in Conduct and Matchless Policy.

Maintenon. You are well vers'd in the Art of Flattery I perceive, which I thought the *British* Court had been altogether Strangers to; but really Madam, your Character has reach'd *Versailles* without a Compliment, to the great Satisfaction of the Grand Monarch.

Mad. M. Now you put it out of my Power to make you a Return suitable to the Favour you have conferr'd upon me.

Maintenon. O, Madam, excuse me, you have already made agreeable Returns, and may continue still so to do, if it is your Pleasure; but now I am taking of Returns, pray dear Madam satisfy me how your Old Friend, and I may be bold to call him ours, does in these troublesome Times for Statesmen; not that I question but he knows how to manage as well as any Body, for we have pronounc'd him to the *Machiavil* of Great-Britain.

Madam M. What do you mean?

Maintenon. You cannot but be sensible that I mean *Mons. Har—*, one whom you have no reason

to be ashamed of: What if there may have been *Familiarities* between you? So there have been between *Lewis le Grand* and *Mrs. Scarron*; but what's all that for us to own among our selves? Besides, People of our Rank, and for such Ends and Purposes as we do; Things do not fall within the reach of the Vulgar, even to censure us, much less to hurt us.

Madam M. Well, Madam, but I know you would do all Things prudently, and would advise me to the same, how then can I act safely if I play my Game above-board while the Dutchess is at the Table?

Maintenon. That certainly is not to be done, therefore she must be removed.

Madam M. And would you have me thus ungrateful to my Patronness and greatest Benefactress?

Maintenon. Did not I do the same to the Dutchess of *Mount Espagne*, whose Menial Servant I was at first, and so consequently must be brought to Court by her, as you was by the Dutchess; but what's all that you can do to what I did? My Mistress was the King's, and I did not pitch so low as only to usurp her Power and Authority over the Greatest Monarchs, but I rivall'd her in his *Bed*, and there I conquer'd too.

Madam M. 'Twas Glorious, Madam, I must own, but as I must be content to strike at smaller Mischief. If I can displace the Dutchess I shall gratifie my Pride, my Pocket, and my Revenge at once.

Maintenon. That will be a *Coup eclat* indeed; and not only please your self, but a great many others that *Pique* her Highness; tho' perhaps if the Questi-

on was ask'd why, they do not know for what; however, 'tis a good thing to sail with Wind and Tide; and as long as the People think her the common *Mark*, they'll never blame you for hitting it, tho' the Way you compass it be never so *Clandestine*.

Madam M. Well, Madam, but do you consider the Interest of her Family, which must be allow'd to be much greater than ever Madam Mount-Espagne's could pretend to with the French King. Besides, I believe the Court of Versailles cannot be ignorant what Efforts I have already made in order to compass the Design we have been speaking of.

Maintenon. Yes, yes, we heard of it with a Witness, and was not a little concern'd at the Event, which must needs have prov'd successful to the Projects we had then on Foot: The Main whereof all the World is sensible miscarry'd thro' ill management in Britain, and not as some Idle People suppose, for Want of being concerted in the Counsels of France. I fear we was outwitted in that Affair; and that *Mons. Har—*, who has cheated every Body in their Opinion of him, over-reach'd us. Indeed it was the Opinion of *Mons. Chamillard* that he was not to be trusted; says he, *A Man that has Betray'd every Party that ever he pretended to espouse, can never be true to any*; but really I over-rul'd that Great Man, and was of a contrary Opinion upon your Account, *Madam*, supposing that a Woman of your Perspicuity, cou'd never be deceiv'd in the Integrity of a Statesman, whose Heart you had at your Command.

Madam M. Nor do I think I am deceived, but can assure you, *Madam*, he is the same Man he ever

was

was ; and let him have assum'd as many Shapes as Proteus, they were all for your Service, which he appears now more zealous to promote than ever ; and I question not but you are sensible what he is doing to establish your Glory and Honour, that thereby he may be able to conquer his Fanatick Enemies, when France has settled herself upon Universal Monarchy.

Maintenon. You surprize with me exceeding Joy : But how are these Great Things to be effected in Disgrace ?

Madam M. That requires Wit as well as Courage of a Briton ; but his Knowledge in the Constitution of his Country, and his Experience of the Humours and Vagaries of the People, qualifie him for such a difficult Task, that no Body besides himself wou'd undertake.

Maintenon. I question not his Abilities ; but pray inform me of the Means whereby such mighty Things are to be brought to pass.

Madam M. You must be inform'd then, Madam, he is elected, as formerly he us'd to be, One of the Representatives of his Country.

Maintenon. Very acceptable News ; proceed.

Madam M. That is nothing, but he is pretty well assur'd of being chose their S——r once again, and then, Madam.

Maintenon. What then can he propose ?

Madam M. Things that would rejoice you to hear : First, then he can bring in the Bill against Occasional Conformity once more.

Maintenon. And what Advantage can that be to the Affairs of France at this time of Day ?

Madam

Madam M. O more than you can imagine, for while the House are debating about that Affair, all the Business of the Nation is neglected; besides, this creates ill Blood again, and then they'll begin to enquire into the Mismanagements, and how the Money is expended, perhaps bring in another Bill of Resumption, and confound all Things as heretofore.

Maintenon. Fort agreeable! ma Foy!

Madam M. This is but a Trifle; for by the Power of being S—r he can call the Ministry to an Account for the Mispending the Nations Money, in fitting out such a Fleet this last Spring for no other End but to disappoint you know who, and then to let Sir George Bing Ride in Leith Road, when 'twas fitter the Queen's Ships shou'd be laid up at Chatham, and the Seamen turn'd ashore, as they us'd to be.

Maintenon. Excellent! my dear little Cousin and Counsellor, I'll hug thee for a Politician; nay, Lewis himself shall hug you too.

Madam M. But what will you say if in the next Parliament, by our Means, some People be call'd to Account why Peace was not made before this; and who were the Advisers to settle King Charles upon the Spanish Monarchy? Nay, after all, what will you say if we oblige the Nation to make a Peace, and accept of the Partition Treaty, according to the Terms that France will give us?

Maintenon. I say you shall disdain to be Rival to the Dutchess; it shall be Ambition enough for the greatest She on Earth to Rival M.

Madam M. I own Madam, you have Arts so alluring that you tempt the greatest Princes of the World

for to serve you, and I reckon it the chiefest of my Glory
all to promote your Interest.

this Maintenon. Nay, now you outdo me in Ceremony
en- and France must yeild to Britain.

y is Madam M. Indeed you make me Blush to accept the Flattery
oti- you give, a thing I own my self not guilty of these later Years,
ow- since State Intrigues, more than the Affairs of Love, have fill'd
Ac- my Breast; not that I have been a Stranger to that Little God,
fit- but have been forc'd to Banish him Occasionally for more Impor-
End tant Business.

Sir Maintenon. Then, dear Madam, oblige me with some
ter Passages of your Life, since they must needs have been
and a Secret to me while the whole Story of my Life has
and been Publick to every Body.

wis Madam M. I know, Madam, you are unacquainted with
ext that Part of my Life when I was introduced to Court, and who
Ac- it was that plac'd me there; and as for what happen'd before,
who it is to trivial for me to rehearse, or you to hear; therefore I shall
the pass over that Part in Silence, and come to some Thing transacted
say of late.

kat Maintenon. I am satisfied your Life cannot
l to not have been without some considerable A-
the mours any more than * mine; for it does not
say always happen that the most Beautiful Women
ept have the most Lovers, but I have generally observ'd it
kat to fall out quite contrary; and for this Reason, that those
l to who are not esteem'd Handsome, endeavour to furnish
the themselves more with Wit, Good Humour, Good Manners,
say and Obliging Conversations, by which kind of Complacency
ept they render themselves more Taking and Agreeable
kat to the Men, than all the Fair Faces in the World, which
l to are generally a Prey to Fools, but the Aversion of Men
the of Sense.

lur Madam M. If you shou'd assert this in Publick you wou'd be
or to apt to draw upon your self a powerful Enemy, tho' to us their most
t killing Weapons, I mean their Eyes, are as feeble as their Hands,

but yet they have Power over those that may do us a Prejudice.
Maintenon. For my Part I never fear'd their Frowns, or courted their Smiles, for which Reason I have been less disappointed than most Women who have been Conversant in Courts, and so much imploy'd in the most Arduous Affairs : But to wave this Discourse, I desire you will oblige me in the Request I made to you before of telling me such Passages of your Life as you may reasonably suppose I am a Stranger to.

Madam, M. Madam, you have guess'd right, for a considerable Part of my Life has been imploy'd in Love, tho' I deceiv'd the World in their Opinion of me, as to that Particular, as much as ever my forementioned Friend did. Especially at Court I was taken for a more modish Lady, was rather addicted to another Sort of Passion, of having too great a Regard for my own Sex, insomuch that few People thought I wou'd ever have Married; but to free my self from that Aspersion some of our Sex labour under, for being too fond of one another, I was resolv'd to Marry as soon as I cou'd fix to my Advantage or Inclination.

Maintenon. And does that Female Vice, which is the most detestable in Nature, Reign among you, as it does with us in France, where our young Ladies are that Way debauch'd in their Nunnery Education, so that few People of Quality care now to have their Daughters brought up in those Places?

Madam M. O. Madam, we are arriv'd to as great Perfection in sinning that Way as you can pretend to, as you may guess by the following Story. A Lady of Fashion calling for a Comrade of hers, a Pretty Young Creature, to carry her to the Play, a Gentleman of her Acquaintance then visiting her, gave her his Hand to the Coach, where having put the Lady, the Glass was immediately drawn up, and the Innocent Young Lady cried out aloud for Help; the Gentleman running after, thinking some Accident might have happen'd, the Lady desired to go out of the Coach, and be carry'd home again. The Gentleman

was

was surpriz'd to see the Lady in such a Fright, and not guess any Reason for it, conducted her home; but afterwards was inform'd by another Female Friend of hers, that the Lady, who call'd of her in the Coach, as she apprehended, attempted to Ravish her; what she meant by it the Innocent Young One was a Stranger to; but these Things are no Novelties with us now.

Maintenon. Il est possible? But, Madam, I entreat you to assume your former Tale.

Madam M. I told you that I was resolv'd to Marry as soon as I cou'd fix either to my Advantage or Inclination; but that which hinder'd a considerable Time, and caus'd a great deal of Speculation, was a grand Secret to every Body, for I had privately contracted my self to a Footman in a certain Bishop's Family, who liv'd a great while to plague me; however, I bore it so well as to confine the Mystery to my own Breast.

Maintenon. But how cou'd you make such a sorry Rascal hold his Tongue? That seems the greatest Paradox.

Madam M. If he did tell it I suppose no Body wou'd believe him, for I was never reproach'd with it yet.

Maintenon. That is mighty happy, and presages your future good Fortune.

Madam M. I always took it as a lucky Omen; but yet what you'll think strange, notwithstanding my being constantly about the Court during this Time I was contracted, no Body ever made Pretensions to me, no, nor after some Time, till I employ'd an Old Snuffling C——s, one that was become a common Mumper, to Trumpet about where-e'er she went what a great Fortune I was like to be, and what a considerable Interest I had at C——r. In short, Madam, it was not long by this Means e'er I had all the Ambitious and Aspiring Young Fellows, of tolerable Fortunes, about the Town to Court to me; I kept them all in Suspence, and gave no great Encouragements to any of them, but One Pretty Fellow, which I believe I shall think of so as long as I live; and indeed I can scarce forgive my self for using him so barbarously as I did, when I was ready to die every Moment for him: But you know, Dear Maintenon, 'tis Destiny, and not Love, that rules us.

Maint.

Maintenon. But why did you expose your self, and neither Marry, nor gratifie your Desires? Every Body proposes either one thing or other when they play the Fool.

Madam M. I did play the Fool I confess, but I am sorry 'twas done after that manner, to abuse the Man I really lov'd: For I proceeded so far as to appoint his Liveries and Equipage; nay, to chuse his own Cloaths that he made for a Birth-Night Sute to oblige me; and when the Old C——s came the next Morning to my Bed-side, Dear Lady N——, said I, how shall I look when that Pretty Fellow shall jump into Bed to me? But how do you think I look'd when it was told me that the C——s had carry'd this Speech to my Pretty Fellow?

Maintenon. To be sure you look'd like a young Wench after she has lost her Maiden-head, foolish enough; but yet with a longing expectation, as if she had a Mind to lose it over again.

Madam M. No, really *Madam* I was confounded, and knew not what to say, or how to look; tho' I knew I had spoke all the fond Things imaginable, yet I did not think the C——s had impudence enough to tell it to him, tho' I oftentimes wish'd within my own Breast that he cou'd be made sensible of my Passion, without a Violation of our Sexes Modesty, and the Decorum I was in some measure oblig'd to observe, considering where I was, and how nearly employ'd in the Court.

Maintenon. O fie now you begin to make me have a less Esteem for you than I thought I cou'd ever have had; to make such a Pretence, that no Woman of half your Years but wou'd have been asham'd of, tho' she had been an absolute Stranger to a Court.

Madam M. But pray consider, all this Time I positively design'd to Marry him, and all the Feines and Pretences I then made were only to fix his Love upon me, for he was very young, and I of Mature Age; therefore I thought it necessary to pump him, and try whether he cou'd be passionately in Love with me, or that he only dissembled for his interest, which I made him sensible would be very considerably advanc'd by me.

Maintenon. And cou'd you be so vatn as to think a Young Pretty Fellow cou'd be really in Love with you? Or that he cou'd aot dissemble his Passion sufficiently enough to deceive you, that was already prepar'd to swallow the Cheat, and be tickled with the false Pleasures that arises from the Caresses of a Perfidious Lover.

Madam M. Dear *Madam*, notwithstanding your great Sagacity and Experience,

Maintenon. I dispute not that, but still a Woman of your Sense has always a Reason to give, which you reserve for other People, tho' you your self are satisfied.

Madam M. Yes, I must own I had a Reason; but first I'll tell you the Story, it still gives me Pleasure to relate it, tho' I suffer for it in the Reflection. This Emissary of mine, after about Two Years time, having pitch'd upon this Young Gentleman I call my Pretty Fellow, I was to give him an interview, which I did at Windsor; and what you'll think very odd, perhaps, Madam, having never seen him before in my Life, I receiv'd him upon my Couch: He brought a Letter directed to me from the C——s, I could not forbear smiling at the Old Lady's Choice; and ever when I look'd off the Letter to talk to him, he blush'd like a Girl at Fourteen, and look'd upon the Ground. In short, this becoming Modesty transporting me, and I cou'd not forbear giving him leave to wait on me to Winchester, whether the Court was then going. Good Heavens! Had he ask'd me a greater Favour at that Time, 'twas out of my Power to have deny'd him.

Maintenon. It was a Sign he was a young Fellow, c^otherwise he would have discover'd that he had no Reason to ask a Favour that you seem'd to Court him to. But how came you to be so impudent as to receive him at Court, in your own Apartments, and alone, whom you design'd to make your Husband?

Madam M. Why really when I reflect upon it my self it looks very odd. But this is nothing to what follow'd, for whenever I went to the Play, I always let him know by the C——s that he might be sure to be there, and Hand me out of the Boxes.

Maintenon. That was the direct Way to throw off all others Pretenders, and declare to the World that you design'd to make him your Husband: Nay, should such a Thing have been done in France, there needed to have been no more Ceremony to publish you man and Wife.

Madam M. Alas, Madam, this is but a meer Trifle for I frequently met him at the Old C——s's Lodgings by my own Appointment, there we play'd at Piquer, and talk'd, and Sigh'd, and dy'd I had almost said; for I was distracted, and did not know what I did, nor what I would do.

Maint.

Experience, you are in this Particular mistaken, for I had so wrong'd upon his Temper, which was naturally Ambitious and Aspiring, by my Specious Promises of Grandeur and Riches, that the Young Spark being Fiery, and Heated with a Passion for the Greatness, took it for his Mistress, and made Court to me with as much Warmth and Desire as if I had been a Venus, yet with an Awe and Veneration due to Juno; Nor could this all be Flattery or Dissimulation, because whate'er he spoke was with an Air of Freedom and Sincerity; and whate'er he did was all Submission and Obedience.

Maintenon. I cannot imagine after all this, taking it for granted that you was satisfied with his Circumstances, what Reason could prevail with you to throw off such a Lover.

Madam M. I; never declar'd to him, or any Body else, the Reason why I discarded him but I believe 'twould Puzzle a Conjuror to guess at the Pretence I made.

Maintenon. The Reason and the Pretence both appear Riddles to me yet; but pray let me hear them, for they must needs be surprizing.

Madam M. I cannot forbear Blushing my self to relate the Pretence it was so ridiculous; for after all this Familiarity, and Two Years spent in bringing the Young Gentleman to Town, at last I very fairly told him, that he had been Courting my Sister all this while, and that I was very much his Friend; but to talk of any thing concerning Marriage to me was a vain Attempt, for I had never any Design to Marry in my Life.

Maintenon. Good Heavens! You surprize me indeed; and what said the Gentleman to this? He must certainly think you Mad if you spoke it seriously.

Madam M. He look'd daunted at first, but upon second Thoughts really fancy'd I was in Jest, and began to Banter me, Pray Madam, said he, is your Sister like you? For I never saw her in my Life, but the Favour or your Friendship you are so kind to tender me I shall ever esteem. I was not pleas'd to think he wou'd not take what I said to him for an Answer, and therefore frown'd upon him with a Haughty Air he had never known me make use of before. This quite abash'd him, and without further prosecuting the Argument he bow'd very respectfully and so retir'd.

Maintenon. In my Opinion that look'd very cool, and I shou'd have taken it, that he was well pleas'd with his Discharge.

Madam M. It gaul'd me at that Time to think I was so mistaken in his Sincerity, and that his going off so silently was rather the Effect of his Indifference than his Passion: But I was soon undeceiv'd, for he writ immediately with all the Tenderness and Concern imaginable, and e'er I had scarce read his Letter, seconded it with his last Visit: But I refus'd to see him, for I had sent the C——s with my Final Resolutions.

Maint.

Maintenon. And how cou'd you refuse to see the Man that that very Moment you accepted a Letter from?

Madam M. For no other Reason but that I purpos'd to use him scurvily, because I thought my self above the World; else how do you think I cou'd persist in such a Contradiction as to send the C——s to persuade the Young Gentleman's Friends that I never had any Thoughts of Marriage, but only entertain'd him for the Sake of a Sister of mine, whom I thought he might make a proper Match for?

Maintenon. And pray what reception did the C——s meet with from the young Gentleman and his Friends?

Madam M. They were all Thunder-struck at her Message, as well they might, and did not treat her as became her Quality, when she told them that I had never any Design to Marry; but what I did was all upon Account of my Sister, who knew nothing of the Matter any more than the Gentleman did. You Lye, Madam, said one of the Company without more Ceremony to the C——s, did not I (continu'd he) bring several Gentlemen to be viewed by you for Husbands, for this Lady you speak of, before we cou'd bring the Young Gentleman to Town, and do you tell me now out of the same Mouth that she never designs to Marry? 'Tis impudent beyond all Measure, and you ought to forfeit all your Pretensions to Honour for asserting it. So away Madam was sent with a Fly in her Ear.

Maintenon. Whoever the Person was, you your self cannot but think he did her a great deal of Justice.

Madam M. That I was satisfied in, but I reveng'd her Quarrel upon him in a short Time, tho' when I did it I hit my self a Box on the Ear.

Maintenon. But hold, Madam, first let me hear the Secret Reason you reserv'd to your self for putting off this Match?

Madam M. That which I took for a sufficient Reason, and which I hope you will approve, was this, that the Gentleman's Mother was first a very Intriguing, Designing Woman, and which wou'd be the Death of all our Hopes, had a large Acquaintance, and was much visited by the chief of those we call the Whig Party here.

Maintenon. I am very well satisfied with the Reason, since it appears to be done for the Promotion of our Interest; therefore give me leave, Madam, to thank you from the bottom of my Heart; but pray inform me how you come reveng'd of the Person who treated the C——s so roughly.

Madam M. You know Mons. H—— was at that Time playing all his Jack-Pudding Tricks to oblige the Whig Ministry, by pleasing of whom he thought the surest and most unsuspected Way to bring about all his Designs; now at the same Time I was preparing Work for him on the other Side, wherein he might exert himself, and show his pretended Zeal to the Party.

Maintenon. Very well concerted upon my Word; but this was Villainous Treatment of High-Church that put their Confidence in you. *Madam*

Madam M. I own it, at first View it has the Face of such, but as long as it was design'd for the promoting of their Interest, I judg'd it excusable.

Maintenon. But this is contrary to the Rule of Scripture, which says, *W* ought never to do Evil that Good may come of it.

Madam M. Well, but the Rule of Scripture is no Rule for Politicians to wale by, therefore I follow'd the Policy of the Children of this World, who are wiser in their Generation than the Children of Light.

Maintenon. Madam, you argue like a Matchivilian; or to speak in English, you talk like a Hobbist; but to the Purpose, how did you compass the Revenge you mention'd just now?

Madam M. I'll tell you in general, for the Particulars are too tedious to relate. You are sensible my Aversion to the Dutchess cannot have been of late date, but is of long standing, therefore I hoarded up in my Memory every thing that I thought might reflect upon her, or what I imagin'd the People would think so; and if there was any deficient, I was already ready to supply it, This Person I talk of was the Man that was to publish the Scandal which I privately supply'd him with; and therefore, that I might act a double Revenge, both upon the Dutchess and him, I first furnish'd him with all the Falsities I could devise, which the C----is was to vouch for Truth, and then I Communicated them to the Dutchess, that she may punish him for what I had transacted; it was now when Monsieur H---- was in the Zenith of his Glory, and was pitch'd upon as the fittest Instrument the Dutchess cou'd imploy to get her Satisfaction: By this Means I became so intimately acquainted with that Wonderful Man, and privately told him all my Sentiments of this Affair.

Maintenon. But 'tis my Admiration he shou'd do any thing for the Dutchess or her Friends, whom both of you seem'd to have a Mortal Hatred to.

Madam M. This we did on purpose to ingratiate our selves with the Party, that we might have the better Handle to Ruin them, and then to Punish the Person we had a Mind to expose or daring to enquire into our Actions.

Maintenon. But it does not appear to me he did any thing to deserve this Treatment, and I hate Barbarity for Barbarity's Sake.

Madam M. But at the same Time I know you have Consideration enough to remember the Cause for which I did these Things, and what signifies Two or Three little Fellows being made a Sacrifice towards the obtaining of such Ends as I propos'd?

Maintenon. And this was the direct Way never to obtain the desir'd End, for 'tis the most Impolitic Thing in the World to punish, except it is with Death,, those that may otherwise have it in their Power one Day or another to Publish their own Innocency: Besides, the People are apt to be Inquisitive into the Punishments of Persons where their Crimes do not appear to deserve what they suffer.

Madam M. But we nick'd the Time when the People were with us; and tho' what we had done had been more Arbitrary than it was, which was scarce possible, it had all pass'd for Mildness and Moderation; for we were doubly fortify'd having the Power of the P--- and the P--- both to protect us.

Maintenon. So far you was undoubtedly in the right, but to be sure you had Publish'd some Truths against the Dutchess, that no Body cou'd be suppos'd to know of but your self; how then did you excuse them to her?

Madam M. She was too Wise to take particular Notice of any thing that was either said or publish'd against her, and so we were disappointed in that Part of our Revenge upon her; for had she stirr'd in the Affair, the Mob wou'd have taken every thing we had said for Truth, and that had been the effectual Way to have ruin'd her Interest at Court.

Maintenon. That's right again; but I find the Dutchess out-witted you, and turn'd the Cannon you had levell'd at her upon your selves; for without doubt when the World found that what had been publish'd against her did not affect her, they wou'd of Course judge her Innocent, and then consequently conclude the Malice of her Enemies, and not any Demerits of the Dutchess, had produc'd that Scandal against her. But notwithstanding all this, in my Opinion you were much in the Wrong to Punish the Person you imploy'd, or at least furnish'd with Materials to Lampoon the Dutchess.

Madam M. We did neither imploy him, nor furnish him with Materials directly, but did it by a Side-wind, so that we might never be call'd to an Account.

Maintenon. That does not at all excuse the Treachery in you, as long as you knew the Informations came from you; and how can you expect for the future to be prosperous in your Intrigues if you betray the Emissaries of your own Designs.

Madam M. But, *Madam*, you don't consider we were provok'd to do what we did by the Folly and Madness of this Scribler, who was forestalling our Market of Scandal, so that *Mons. H---* himself cou'd not vend his own Commodities without this Monopolizer, who took 'em out of his Hands, and hence arose a Mortal Quarrel.

Maintenon. Well, but I find *M. H---* was Piqu'd against him before this Business happen'd, which was the first time he express'd his Repentment.

Madam M. No, *Madam*; there you mistake the whole Affair, for I was indeed Piqu'd, I must confess, upon the Affront offer'd to my C---s, which afterwards I improv'd sufficiently to his Prejudice; but *Mons. H---* on the contrary had shew'd him Favour, and that he was well pleas'd with his Proceedings, till he pretended to Sell the Advice which he had freely Given to the Publick, to promote those Ends Publickly that he was aiming at in Secret.

Maintenon. So then they clash'd only, quarrelling it seems who shou'd do the Work first they both were aiming at; 'tis pitty they did not understand one another, so as to agree in the main, tho' they seem'd to differ in the Way of compassing their Designs. I think 'twas ill manag'd on the Part of *Mont. H---*, who saw plainly what the other was doing, while at the same time he might easily imagine the other must be ignorant of his Proceedings.

Madam M. But *Madam*, I wonder to hear in this Discourse a Woman of your Penetration argue for a Statesman's submitting himself to every little Fellow that is assuming by himself to do the Business only proper for such great Ministers to attempt.

Maintenon. No, you mistake me, I am not for having Ministers of State submit to such Sort of Men; but when they see a Bold Fellow acting beyond his Sphere to compass the same Ends they both point at, such ought not only to be comm'd at, but encourag'd as much as possible; for here is no Room for Jealousie, when the Contention is only who shall be the greatest V-----n.

Madam M. And I hope you will allow there's Emulation in Vice as well as Virtue.

Maintenon. Then I question not but they made good the Proverb, "That when Knaves fall out, Honest Men come by their own."

Madam M. Yes, they made that appear, for in the Contention betwixt them they expos'd one another to some Purpose, while the Wh---s stood laughing at both, but never offer'd to part either, but let 'em fight it out, till both were ashamed at what each other had done, and the World were sufficiently satisfied they had both lost what they contended for.

Maintenon. This was enough to have ruin'd his Reputation with I ligh C---, and lost his Authority with Low.

Madam M. No, no, it strengthen'd it, had he known how to have made a right use of it; but the worst of all his Management was, he over-run it to gratifie his own Passion, which was always more violent and ungovernable to Private Persons than the Publick, which rais'd him more Secret Enemies than he cou'd manage; notwithstanding I had pav'd the Way for him where-ever he had occasion to move, and render'd his Access so easie to the Court; he had no Rubs in his Way to effect any thing that cou'd reasonably be desir'd.

Maintenon. How was it possible then to Miscarry?

Madam M. By overshooting the Bolt; nothing wou'd serve us then but Universal Monarchy; we wou'd have no Competitors in Power with us, but rule Absolutely, or not at all, and so we had one of our Ends, but not that we drive at so furiously.

Maintenon. But it was not probable for you to think of holding the Reins of Government in your own Hands solely, they were too many to be manag'd by you Two.

Madam M. That I grant, but we had all our Creatures about us, that knew what we wanted, and had learn'd to be Passive Asses, knowing 'twas the only Way at last to command others to be as submissive as themselves. In short, *Madam*, I was for a total Revolution, or none at all.

Maintenon. Ah, *Madam*, but you wanted the Revolution Rulers on your Side; those that were too strong for the Father, would scarce ever be overcome by the Child; you shou'd have fought to have brought some of them over to you, and then I shou'd have had some Hopes of the Project.

Madam M. Hopes indeed! If we cou'd have made the Bitter Enemies of all our Designs the Instruments of bringing them about, no doubt then we cou'd not have miscarry'd; for had not they been our Enemies, we had had no need of any Stratagems to perpetrate whatever our Hearts cou'd desire, or Thoughts invent.

Maintenon. Then the Project was as foolish as our Northern Expedition, for we only wanted the Right Revolution-men on our Side, and we had been as successful as the Pope, and our Wishes together, flatter'd us we should be.

Madam M. Our Case was quite different; we had a Prospect of Things that carry'd almost a demonstrable Certainty in them: For we had a Grant from them that had the Power to give it us, had not those very Men nick'd us with a Reassumption worse than that *Monf. H*—— fitted them with some Years ago.

Maintenon. But a *Richlieu* or a *Mazarine* wou'd have made such Expeditious Use of that Power first granted, it shou'd not have been in their Power ever to have reassum'd it.

Madam M. But I must tell you, *Madam*, *Richlieu* had not a *Marlbrough* to fight with, nor *Mazarine* a *G——d——ph——n*; tho' I must own you have manag'd a *Colbert* and a *Chamillard*; I must confess my Weakness oppos'd to the Wits and Politicks of a *S——nd——d*.

Maintenon. 'Tis true, your Statismen now have topp'd us as well as your Generals; but the Wit of a Woman may as well retrieve our Honour now, as I may say without Vanity it advanc'd it to its late Meridian height. But Age can make no Conquests in the Field of *Mars* or *Venus*. I must resign my Sway to some more Youthful Heroine, and you I've pitch'd upon to be my Glorious Successor.

Madam M. *Madam*, you load me with more Favours than I have Ambitious Vanity enough to think I can ever be able to repay, but depend upon it, the future Services of my Life are devoted to your Interest.

Maintenon. *Votre tres Humble Servant, ma Chere Amy*: And so I bid you with Regret Adieu.

14 MA 64

F I N I S.

de a
gra-
vate
cou'd
occa-
n his

Uni-
rule
drive

ns of
d by

knew
only
Ma-

your
e o-
hem

f all
not
any
it..

ion,
been
l be.
ings
rant
ck'd
ome

diti-
wer

h to
ma-
d to

your
, as
Age
my
my

biti-
n it,

you